

VZCZCXRO5528  
PP RUEHLMC  
DE RUEHLP #0596 1112140  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 212140Z APR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0596  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 8954  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6334  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0308  
RUEHBUT/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 7517  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 4564  
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0467  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 4899  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 6248  
RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO 7182  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 1946  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0096  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFSS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 000596

SIPDIS

GENEVA FOR WTO; USTR FOR BHARMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/20/2019

TAGS: ASEC BL ECON KDEM PGOV PHUM PINR PREL ENVR

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN FM: "STOP SUPPORTING THE OPPOSITION"

Classified By: A/EcoPol Chief Brian Quigley for reasons 1.4 (b,d.)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: April 20, one day after leaving the Summit of the Americas (SOA), both Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca and Charge to the United Nations Pablo Salon are claiming victory after making their "demands" known to the U.S. delegation. Salon spoke to press in Geneva about "laying down the rules" for the U.S., which includes a framework based in "development cooperation, drug trafficking, commerce, political change and mutual respect." Meanwhile, FM Choquehuanca told press in La Paz that he "demanded" of Secretary Clinton that the U.S. cooperate only with the Bolivian government instead of supporting the opposition. He also claimed that the U.S. is "open to re-examining suspended programs" such as the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and the Andean Trade Preferences and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA). The programs were suspended (MCA in 2007, ATPDEA in 2008) for Bolivia after a lack of cooperation in counternarcotics and other areas. In a reference to ATPDEA, Choquehuanca announced that he told the U.S. "to lift the unjust and arbitrary sanctions of President Bush." Both Salon and Choquehuanca confirmed further meetings would take place in May to discuss bilateral issues, including an exchange of ambassadors. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (C) FM Choquehuanca gave a lengthy press conference April 20 from La Paz, giving a full rundown of his meeting with Secretary Clinton at the SOA. He outlined the five issues discussed: ATPDEA, MCA, international development cooperation, terrorism and the re-establishment of ambassadors. Choquehuanca emphasized his country's requirements for successful bilateral relationship to include the reinstatement of both the ATPDEA and MCA programs, calling their suspension "unjust" and "arbitrary" and that "a country cannot decide unilaterally what programs it will develop." "In spite of having met all the goals, ex President Bush unilaterally decided to cancel the program. We hope President Obama can repair this injustice...we look for concrete signals that these sanctions can be lifted" he said. Choquehuanca also focused on a halt to "U.S. interference." He confirmed they expected full cooperation from the U.S. government and no dealings with political opposition.

¶3. (C) COMMENT. Using the term "sanctions" for ATPDEA suspension garners more support for the GOB at home and abroad, casting itself once again as a victim of "imperialist" U.S. policy. Choquehuanca and Solon additionally used their press conferences to cast the U.S. as the demandeur in the bilateral relationship. END COMMENT.  
URS